

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending June 23, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Moisture Resulted in Tremendous Growth of Sweet Corn and Other Vegetables  
Potato Growers Were Dealing with Late Blight**

### FIELD CROPS

Moisture early in the week in the west resulted in tremendous growth of sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Timothy hay harvest began in Clallam, Jefferson and Kittitas Counties. Warm temperatures and hot winds continued to stress the wheat crop in the central and eastern regions of the state. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair condition and spring cereals continued to head out. Potato growers were dealing with late blight, which appeared recently in some fields. Commercial Christmas tree growers applied insecticides for the control of root aphids on newly planted seedlings.

### LIVESTOCK

Livestock producers focused on cutting hay late in the week based on a forecast of dry, warm weather. Dairy producers continued irrigating forage fields. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 7% poor, 71% fair and 21% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Harvest started for strawberries and was ongoing for other crops. Roadside stands and farmer's markets were slowly getting more locally grown products in the stands. Cherries were experiencing their "June Drop" in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Some pear producers reported rings around their fruit due to the spring freezing.

| Days Suitable for Fieldwork |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| This Week                   | Last Week |
| 6.4                         | 6.8       |

| Soil Moisture and Supply              |           |    |     |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----|-----|---|
| Soil Type                             | % Acreage |    |     |   |
|                                       | VS        | SH | AD  | S |
| Topsoil                               | 4         | 29 | 67  | 0 |
| Subsoil                               | 1         | 33 | 66  | 0 |
| Irrigation Water                      | 0         | 0  | 100 | 0 |
| Hay and                               | 5         | 20 | 75  | 0 |
| VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, |           |    |     |   |

| Crop Progress                       |             |           |      |            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------|------------|
| Crop/Activity                       | % Completed |           |      |            |
|                                     | This Week   | Last Week | 2001 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Headed                 | 55          | 43        | 72   | 70         |
| Winter Wheat Headed                 | 94          | 76        | 97   | 98         |
| Barley Headed                       | 50          | 38        | 73   | 72         |
| Corn Planted                        | 100         | 99        | 100  | 100        |
| Corn Emerged                        | 95          | 90        | 100  | 100        |
| Dry Edible Beans                    | 96          | 91        | 100  | 99         |
| Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting | 96          | 84        | 94   | 86         |
| Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting | 10          | 0         | 15   | 14         |

| Crop Condition *                      |           |   |    |    |    |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|
| Crop                                  | % Acreage |   |    |    |    |
|                                       | VP        | P | F  | G  | EX |
| Winter Wheat                          | 1         | 8 | 35 | 44 | 12 |
| Winter Wheat                          | 0         | 0 | 0  | 94 | 6  |
| Spring Wheat                          | 1         | 9 | 54 | 34 | 2  |
| Spring Wheat                          | 0         | 0 | 0  | 88 | 12 |
| Barley Dryland                        | 0         | 8 | 55 | 36 | 1  |
| Barley Irrigated                      | 0         | 0 | 0  | 93 | 7  |
| Potatoes                              | 0         | 0 | 3  | 92 | 5  |
| Corn                                  | 0         | 0 | 7  | 93 | 0  |
| Dry Edible Beans                      | 0         | 0 | 6  | 88 | 6  |
| VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, |           |   |    |    |    |

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Farmers were busy in their fields as summer finally arrived. The weather was warm and dry. Harvest for grass hay was in full production. Timothy hay harvest began.

**Grays Harbor:** Ag producers welcomed two days of heavy rainfall early in the week. The moisture resulted in tremendous growth of sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Commercial Christmas tree growers applied insecticides for the control of root aphids on newly planted seedlings. Livestock producers focused on cutting hay late in the week based on a forecast of dry, warm weather. Hybrid poplar plantation owners reported fungus disease development on leaves and shoots.

**Pierce/South King:** There were no unusual weather situations to report. The weather in the South Puget Sound area was favorable to crops. Harvest started for strawberries and was ongoing for other crops.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was typical spring weather with heavy rain on Tuesday and temperatures

were in the 60's. The official start of summer brought welcome sunshine and above normal warm temperatures. Farmers and home gardeners were taking advantage of the long, warm and dry days. Local strawberries started a little late but was worth the wait. Roadside stands and farmer's markets were slowly getting more locally grown products in the stands.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall early in the week, was welcomed by most ag producers. Mild temperatures and ample soil moisture resulted in rapid crop growth. Hybrid poplar plantations became infected with leaf and shoot blight fungus under nearly ideal disease infection conditions (mild temperatures and moisture). Near the end of the week, livestock producers started cutting hay again based on a weather forecast of dry, sunny weather. Christmas tree growers continued to monitor true fir for aphid infestations and complained about bird damage to new leader growth. Dairy producers continued irrigating forage fields.

## CENTRAL

**Chelan/Douglas:** Dry conditions continued. Warm temperatures and hot winds were stressing the wheat crop. Cherries were experiencing their "June Drop." Some cherry producers were reporting a higher percentage than normal and suspect it was due to damage received from the April/May freeze. Apple sizes were expected to be smaller than average due to a cold spring and freezing/losses of the king bloom. Some pear producers were reporting rings around their fruit. This damage was also do to spring freezing.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were warm. Rain at the end of the week delayed alfalfa harvest. The first cutting of alfalfa was complete and the second cutting was ready to begin. Cherry harvest was underway. Potato growers were dealing with late blight, which appeared recently in some fields.

**Grant:** Green pea harvest continued. Dryland area needs precipitation. Sweet corn and dry bean planting

continued. Lima bean planting was complete. Bunching onion seed harvest began. Grass seed harvest continued.

**Kittitas:** The first cutting of alfalfa was complete and the first cutting of timothy was in full swing. Sweet corn fields were being cultivated. Range and pasture conditions were fair.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Most of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was cut and put into stacks. Pasture conditions were fair. It is starting to dry and there have been a couple of reports that springs were low on water supply. **Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 10 degrees above normal, with .01 of an inch of precipitation on June 17. Cherry harvest in the lower Yakima Valley was in full swing. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Winter wheat remained in mostly fair condition and spring cereals were mostly headed out and in fair to poor condition. Spring cereal conditions will continue to drop as precipitation is needed and not the hot, dry conditions forecasted for this week.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Another rainstorm went through the area on Monday and brought needed moisture to both counties. These timely rains will help in the filling of grain crops. Crops in some areas had already been hurt by drought conditions prior to the rains.

**Columbia/Walla Walla:** Weather conditions continued to be varied. Showers were received overnight on June 17, with amounts measured between .50 and .70 in Columbia County. Showers continued through Tuesday, June 18, with thunder and lightning and some hail. Dry peas were reported looking above average at this point.

However, winter wheat showed signs of stress. Hay producers were still having difficulty getting the crop cut and baled. Alfalfa growth was very slow, many doubting there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> cutting this year.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat remained in mostly fair condition. Spring cereals were starting to head out and were in mostly fair condition.

**Stevens:** Rain was received early in the week. Producers reported anywhere from .5 to 1.2 inches accumulation. Later in the week temperatures rose to the 90's allowing haying to resume. Yields were reported to be near normal.

## WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

June 24, 2002

| Station                        | Air Temperature |    |     |     | Growing Degree Days |     |          |     | Last Week Precipitation |       |      | Season Precipitation |       |          |      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------------|-------|----------|------|
|                                | LO              | HI | AVG | DFN | Base 50F            |     | Base 60F |     | Total                   |       |      | Total                |       | % Normal | Days |
|                                |                 |    |     |     | TOT                 | DFN | TOT      | DFN | Inches                  | DFN   | Days | Inches               | DFN   |          |      |
| <b>WEST</b>                    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Bellingham                     | 44              | 80 | 61  | 2   | 76                  | 10  | 12       | 1   | 0.07                    | -0.35 | 2    | 31.48                | -1.60 | 95       | 150  |
| Everett                        | 49              | 77 | 60  | -1  | 70                  | -2  | 9        | -5  | 0.23                    | -0.24 | 1    | 29.62                | -3.80 | 89       | 155  |
| Hoquiam                        | 45              | 66 | 57  | -2  | 51                  | -5  | 0        | -7  | 0.41                    | -0.05 | 3    | 62.92                | -1.82 | 97       | 170  |
| Kelso                          | 45              | 82 | 61  | 2   | 80                  | 6   | 19       | -1  | 0.18                    | -0.29 | 1    | 39.90                | -3.77 | 91       | 148  |
| Olympia                        | 43              | 86 | 60  | 1   | 71                  | 4   | 12       | 0   | 0.30                    | -0.06 | 3    | 57.25                | 9.08  | 119      | 161  |
| Seattle-Tacoma                 | 50              | 83 | 62  | -1  | 82                  | 0   | 19       | -2  | 0.37                    | 0.02  | 2    | 36.74                | 1.74  | 105      | 145  |
| Shelton                        | 41              | 84 | 60  | -2  | 72                  | -9  | 12       | -9  | 0.01                    | -0.39 | 1    | 68.26                | 5.91  | 109      | 154  |
| Tacoma                         | 46              | 86 | 61  | 0   | 80                  | -1  | 19       | -2  | 0.16                    | -0.26 | 2    | 28.80                | -8.94 | 76       | 123  |
| Vancouver                      | 44              | 87 | 64  | 3   | 97                  | 16  | 32       | 11  | 0.42                    | 0.07  | 3    | 36.07                | -2.90 | 93       | 149  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                 |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Ellensburg                     | 41              | 88 | 64  | 0   | 96                  | 1   | 30       | -4  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 6.83                 | -1.38 | 83       | 82   |
| Omak                           | 38              | 91 | 67  | 5   | 119                 | 30  | 50       | 19  | 0.05                    | -0.23 | 1    | 8.62                 | -4.44 | 66       | 69   |
| Stampede Pass                  | 37              | 75 | 53  | 5   | 39                  | 20  | 9        | 9   | 1.01                    | 0.36  | 3    | 73.93                | -3.14 | 96       | 160  |
| Wenatchee                      | 49              | 91 | 69  | 2   | 134                 | 9   | 64       | 5   | 0.01                    | -0.13 | 1    | 5.11                 | -2.42 | 68       | 60   |
| Yakima AP                      | 38              | 92 | 65  | -2  | 104                 | -5  | 40       | -5  | 0.01                    | -0.13 | 1    | 6.56                 | -0.78 | 89       | 60   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>               |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Colville                       | 43              | 90 | 64  | 2   | 98                  | 11  | 35       | 6   | 0.59                    | 0.26  | 2    | 14.88                | -4.09 | 78       | 81   |
| Deer Park                      | 44              | 83 | 61  | -3  | 76                  | -14 | 15       | -16 | 0.43                    | 0.15  | 3    | 20.66                | 3.98  | 124      | 119  |
| Spokane AP                     | 43              | 83 | 62  | -2  | 85                  | -9  | 23       | -9  | 0.20                    | -0.08 | 1    | 13.21                | -1.65 | 89       | 107  |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>            |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Ephrata                        | 43              | 91 | 68  | -2  | 129                 | -8  | 59       | -11 | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 5.30                 | -1.26 | 81       | 60   |
| Moses Lake                     | 46              | 92 | 67  | -3  | 121                 | -16 | 51       | -19 | 0.09                    | 0.02  | 2    | 5.44                 | -1.12 | 83       | 63   |
| Quincy                         | 47              | 92 | 69  | 2   | 132                 | 13  | 62       | 10  | 0.01                    | -0.07 | 1    | 5.86                 | -1.27 | 82       | 57   |
| Ritzville                      | 40              | 90 | 64  | 0   | 96                  | 1   | 33       | 0   | 0.08                    | -0.06 | 1    | 9.33                 | -1.01 | 90       | 75   |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>               |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Hanford                        | 50              | 93 | 70  | -3  | 144                 | -11 | 74       | -13 | 0.05                    | -0.02 | 2    | 5.22                 | -0.72 | 88       | 49   |
| Pasco                          | 45              | 96 | 69  | -2  | 135                 | -7  | 65       | -8  | 0.27                    | 0.20  | 2    | 5.14                 | -1.74 | 75       | 56   |
| Pullman                        | 42              | 79 | 59  | -2  | 64                  | -10 | 8        | -14 | 0.77                    | 0.42  | 2    | 17.24                | -1.93 | 90       | 108  |
| Walla Walla AP                 | 48              | 91 | 67  | -3  | 121                 | -12 | 51       | -13 | 0.64                    | 0.43  | 1    | 14.47                | -3.47 | 81       | 99   |
| Whitman Mission                | 37              | 94 | 66  | -1  | 115                 | -1  | 50       | 0   | 0.76                    | 0.56  | 1    | 12.76                | 0.24  | 102      | 94   |
| <b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |
| Coeur D'A'AP                   | 45              | 84 | 62  | -2  | 88                  | -10 | 27       | -7  | 0.56                    | 0.11  | 2    | 18.81                | -4.53 | 81       | 114  |
| Lewiston ID                    | 49              | 89 | 67  | -2  | 120                 | -7  | 50       | -9  | 0.48                    | 0.20  | 3    | 9.59                 | -1.15 | 89       | 98   |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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